

World War II & National Savings

During World War II National Savings launched several fund-raising campaigns with the aim of equipment being sponsored by a civil community. Each county was set a target for the amount of money they should raise.

An initial campaign was launched in September 1940 known as War Weapons Week. This was a drive to replace the material lost at Dunkirk, and in summer 1942 the government had a smaller campaign for British Army equipment known as Tanks for Attack. The British Army equivalent was Salute the Soldier Week, held in 1944 and the Royal Navy equivalent was Warship Week, launched in October 1941.

During the early parts of the war, the Royal Navy not only had lost many capital ships but was facing increasing pressure to provide escorts for convoys in the Atlantic. While there was not a shortage of sailors, ships sunk by enemy action had to be replaced

"Wings For Victory Week" was a national fund raising event held from 1st to 8th May 1943. Funds raised contributed to the cost of an aircraft, which in turn would be named after the town or county which raised enough money.

Nearly every town had 'Wings for Victory' fund raising weeks during which people were asked to contribute money for a Spitfire or a Wellington or Lancaster bomber.